

# WILT THOU DESTROY THE RIGHTEOUS WITH THE WICKED

## GENESIS 18

Text: Genesis 18:23

### **Genesis 18:23 (KJV)**

<sup>23</sup> And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

Introduction:

I want to tell you about a certain society - one that cast God aside and consequently sunk into a pit of gross darkness. Despising the Light, this society became a magnet for every kind of evil spirit. Law and order collapsed; every man was a law unto himself. The entire society was abandoned to the devil, and no moral force remained to hinder its headlong rush into hell.

There was no honor, decency or self-respect left among them, no reverence for life whatsoever. Justice and kindness faded away, and the people were overcome with lust and licentiousness. They sneered at virtue, their consciences seared and callused. They scoffed at the fear of God and mocked righteousness.

They became totally inhospitable, possessing the heart and indifference of a beast. They had no pity for the poor. All spiritual desire was extinguished and gross materialism and fleshly lusts became their gods. The people became totally shockproof, so that the vilest, bloodiest crimes were accepted as normal behavior.

I am describing Sodom. We know of Sodom's terrible end - and Scripture shows us that America is fast becoming another Sodom!

Homosexual Sodomites came out of their closet and became activists, casting a demonic spell over a whole generation of men and boys. They grew politically powerful, controlling everything. Sodom became the world's gay capital, a society so vile, wicked and crazed with violence that its sins thundered throughout the heavens, filling God's holy environment with a hellish cry.

We have in this story I believe one of the saddest messages ever delivered to man. It was a message of warning of the coming judgment of two cities, Sodom and Gomorrah.

Notice:

### ***1. Condition of Sodom***

#### A. Founders (Genesis 10:19-20)

(Gen 10:19-20) "And the border of the Canaanites was from Sidon, as thou comest to Gerar, unto Gaza; as thou goest, unto Sodom, and Gomorrah, and Admah, and Zeboim, even unto Lasha. {20} These are the sons of **Ham**, after their families, after their tongues, in their countries, and in their nations."

### B. Full of Self

(Ezek 16:48-50) "As I live, saith the Lord GOD, Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as thou hast done, thou and thy daughters. {49} Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. {50} And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good."

### C. Faithlessness

(Jer 23:14) "I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah."

### D. Filth

(Gen 13:13) "But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly."

(Gen 19:1-10) "And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground; {2} And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night. {3} And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat. {4} But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: {5} And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them. {6} And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, {7} And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. {8} Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof. {9} And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee,

than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door. {10} But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door."

## **2. Cry of the Sinful (Gen 18:20)**

(Gen 18:20) "And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;"

A. Bold Cry

B. Boastful Cry

(Isa 3:9) "The show of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves."

## **3. Communing Of a Saint**

(Gen 18:33) "And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place."

A. Concerned

B. Consistent

1. Asked about sparing the city with: 50, 45, 40, 30, 20, 10

(Luke 11:5-10) "And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; {6} For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? {7} And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. {8} I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. {9} And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. {10} For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

#### ***4. Consideration We Must See***

##### A. Limit of concern

Could Sodom have been spared if only Abraham had just communed once more?

Is America next?

(Mat 11:20-24) "Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: {21} Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and

ashes. {22} But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. {23} And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. {24} But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee."

Close:

(Isa 1:9) "Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah."

God help us to not to stop communing and pleading too soon.